Community School Project for Bihar (Biharsharif Cluster)

Background:

Since mass teaching era, Biharsharif area had shown enough potential for the growth of the faith. This is one of the most receptive areas of this region. Last seven year has evidenced systemized the growth of this cluster. Constant flow of human resource from the training institute helped to establish a number of activities, sustain them continuously for longer period of time and accelerate the rate of growth cycle by cycle.

Socio-economic: Inhabitants of the rural areas of the cluster mostly depend on agriculture and farm-labor related activities for their livelihood. Biharsharif and Rajgir towns are characterized by a high population density, as people flock to them in search of livelihood. This region is among the most backward areas of the country, characterized by low literacy rate, which at about 40% is among the lowest in the country, above average birth rate, and high level of poverty; more than 50% of the cluster's population live below the standard poverty line, which is stipulated by the Government at a per-capita income of about US$ 50. Caste and religion based prejudices have a strong influence over the generality of people in this area, a situation that lends itself to manipulation and exploitation by religious and political leaders. The resulting social tension which often leads to violence serves to further inhibit the economic and social progress of the people. Majority of the people in this region are low-caste Hindus while about 15% of its population are adherents of Islam who live in tightly concentrated pockets.Socio-economic condition of the population of this cluster is at the level of below average. Most of populations are either marginal farmer or agriculture labourer. Government education system is very poor. So, literacy is very low.

Community activity: The situation of inactivity in Biharsharif area continued till about two years after the advent of the Four Year Plan. Activities of the training institute in the state were by then still very unsystematic and sporadic. By early 2000, very few institute courses – one extension course each at Biharsharif and Rajgir based on study of Ruhi book-1 – had been facilitated for the friends in this area.

By early 2001, this area was identified as Biharsharif cluster and was categorized as a “C” cluster. Around this time saw the initiation of the cluster’s first reflection meeting at Rajgir on 23rd September 2001. Reflection meetings, which have been regularly held ever since, have contributed in large measure to the intensification of the cluster’s growth. That time mainly four communities were able to initiate few core activities. These initiatives began to result in a gradual increase in the number of devotional gatherings and children’s classes in different parts of the cluster. Devotional gatherings, which were new in concept for the friends at that time, began to attract greater attention and soon became a potent tool for effecting accelerated growth. A special campaign aiming at multiplying the number of devotional meetings, followed by an institute campaign was soon launched providing a major impetus to the growth process.

The scheme of cluster-level coordination was established for the first time in the cluster in September 2003, with appointment of a Cluster Growth Committee served by a full time Facilitator cum secretary, and one cluster coordinator. The first growth cycle was symbolically launched through a series of community-based prayer meetings at 10.00 in the morning on 31st March 2005.

Present Scenario: Biharsharif cluster is currently into its ninth cycle of growth, which was launched on 30th December 2007 and will conclude till 30th March, 2008. The Tenth cycle is scheduled to be lunched on 30th March 2008.

The table below represents the achievements made during each growth cycle:

1st Cycle	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	R-6	R-7	DM		BCC		JYG		St. C.	
31 Mar’05	337	169	145	123	19	67	72	31	372	11	195	16	123	11	67
8 Nov’05	395	206	177	143	19	70	74	67	714	26	326	22	219	14	79
2nd Cycle															
8 Jan’06	395	206	177	143	19	70	74	67	714	26	326	22	219	14	79
30 Apr’06	419	236	201	173	68	98	78	85	850	35	395	31	320	10	58
3rd Cycle															
4 Jun’06	419	236	201	173	68	98	89	85	850	35	395	31	320	10	58
30 Sep’06	504	280	216	185	99	112	106	104	961	47	640	44	547	21	143
4th Cycle															
16 Oct’06	504	280	216	185	99	112	106	104	961	47	640	44	547	21	143
31 Jan’07	529	290	226	188	99	116	113	119	1033	51	690	48	570	23	155
5th Cycle															

1 Feb'07	529	290	226	188	99	116	113	119	1033	51	690	48	570	23	155
31 Mar'07	574	332	304	232	101	116	113	150	1280	57	753	48	582	25	149
6th Cycle															
1 Apr'07	574	332	304	232	101	116	113	150	1280	57	753	48	582	25	149
30 Jun'07	607	345	312	242	126	153	114	165	1521	61	839	53	632	25	161
7th Cycle															
1 July'07	607	345	312	242	126	153	114	165	1521	61	839	53	632	25	161
9 Oct'07	682	370	334	247	126	158	114	180	1470	63	861	53	632	22	139
8th Cycle															
10 Oct'07	682	370	334	247	126	158	114	180	1470	63	861	53	632	22	139
30 Dec'07	723	411	345	248	132	159	115	190	1520	65	896	55	656	23	132

Junior Youth Empowerment Programme: The Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program was introduced in Biharsharif cluster when a few friends participated in a special program at Lucknow in April 2002. Subsequently, a training camp organized at Rajgir in early May, 2003 launched the 40-day Junior Youth Intensive Summer Camp with the assistance and support of the National Youth Committee and Foundation for Advancement of Science, involving the setting up of junior youth groups by visiting volunteers in different parts of the cluster. Out of 65 total participants of this camp, 45 friends of Biharsharif cluster have participated in camp. Nine junior youth groups were formed during this period, committed to studying the first book in the series: "Breezes of Confirmation". These junior youth groups met daily during the 40-day campaign and disintegrated after its completions.

2003

- May, 2003-Summer camp of "Breezes.." with 40 days service organized by National Youth Committee and assisted by FAS at Rajgir
- Out of 65 participants 45 from Biharsharif cluster
- Started 9 JYG with 70-80 JY for "Breezes.." Positive points-Good beginning, transformation in JYs life,
- Challenges-Lack of study material, inexperience animators, programme totally dependent on volunteers.

2004

- May, 2004-Summer camp of "Walking.." with 40 days service organized by National Youth Committee and assisted by FAS at Rajgir
- Out of 119 participants around 50 from Biharsharif cluster

- Total 13 JYG with 112 JY - 7 JYG had started “Walking..” and 6 new groups form with for “Breezes..” mostly conducted by local animator, only four volunteers served for 40 days.
- Dec., 2004 –Kishor Mela (Junior Youth Conference) at Amdaha with spl. presence of Mrs. Sona Arbab
- Animator Meeting with Mrs. Arbab:New insights-multiplication of activity, three year programme, concept of saturation
- Now it becomes an ongoing activity of the communities.
- Challenges-need better coordination

2005

- May, 2005-Summer camp of “Glimmerings..” organized by Training Institute at Nalanda
- Out of 50 participants around 30 from Biharsharif cluster
- Total 22 JYG with 195 JY
- At the end of year Total JYG 22 with 219 JY
- Biharsharif had launched first cycle of IPG

2006

June –Total Junior Youth Group (JYG)-31 and Total Junior Youth involved in groups-333

2007

Dec- JYG-55 JY-656

2008

Feb- JYG-68 JY-920

Achievement

- *More than 100 have graduated from Programme and 40 have entered into the institute process and 23 have completed RUHI 7.*
- *At present 15 are serving in the cluster. 8 have migrated to other region.*
- *13 are serving as an animator and 04 of them also serving as a teacher of BCC. 03 are also conducting Study circle as a tutor.*

Challenges:

- *Migration is a big challenge for this cluster*
- *A good number, around 25 animators have migrated from cluster after the training, and even after the establishment of JYG*
- *Many JYs have migrated, who has close to complete or just after the completing the sequence*
- *The main reasons of migration: lack of education facility, search of employment.*

Community School Project:

Introduction:

To overcome this migration problem, we should provide opportunity to youths to serve their community. Most of the active youths

especially those have went through the junior youth programme as well as the sequences of institute courses and active in the core activities are looking forward to serve the community and contribute towards making a “better world”. But material and social compulsions forces them to leave the village for either education or small employment. In this project, we will train those youth as a teacher and assist and accompany them to establish a school for the community children.

Aim of the Project:

- To provide service Avenue to Youths to serve the community as a contribution towards betterment of world.
- To strengthen the education system at community level.
- To educate the children with the help of Youths.

Annual Plan:

(March, 2007 to February, 2009)

Initial Goal: Initially ***Nyaypath (the path to Justice)*** has planned to introduce this project in 5 communities of Biharsharif cluster. Community Schhol : 5 (Hargawan, Sipah, Salempur, Choura bagicha, Damar bigha) and Total children : approx.100

Teacher: We have selected a group of five youths (one from each village), those who are very active in the growth process. All of them are active as a good animator, teacher and tutor as well. All are youth and between around 18 to 22 years of age. So, from the next educational session (April, 2008) they will establish five community schools in different villages with average of 20 children each.

Selected Community: Hargawan, Sipah, Salempur, Choura bagicha, Damar bigha

Training: Training will be like in service training. There are four training during first year. First basic training will be four weeks training. This will help them to understand to basic knowledge and skill to begin a tutorial class for preprimary students. Second training will give them an opportunity to reflect on their first three months successes and challenges. It will helpful for them to consult on those challenges. We can schedule this training during summer vacation period for two weeks. Third training can be schedule during festival vacation in the month of October for one week. Final training can be schedule during winter vacation in December for one week. This training will help them to reflect on further development of school. They continue to enhance their knowledge and skills in all the trainings. And again we will repeat this pattern next year with new level.

Material: For training of the teacher as well as for student of school, we can use the material prepared by the East African Education Council,

New Era Development Institute, Panchgani, and Badi Foundation (especially Hidden Gems). Other material – selection portions of Ruhi one, two, three, four, five, six and seven.

Administration: First year Director will monitor and coordinate the project directly. Next year we can appoint a coordinator. During this period we have opportunity to identify capable and effective human resource for this purpose.

Budget
(March, 2007 to February, 2009)

Training (60 days for 7 persons including 5 trainee and two trainer)
Total (including fooding and traveling): **=Rs. 25,100**

Fooding: 60 days x 7 persons x Rs. 55 per day =Rs. 23100
Traveling: 4 training x 5 trainee x Rs. 100 per trainee =Rs. 2000

Allowance and Salary:
=Rs.173,000
Director (@ Rs.14000 per month): Rs. 14000 x 12
=Rs.168000
Trainer (2) (as per requirement): 2 x Rs. 2500 =Rs. 5000
Project Coordinator (1): not required this year

Training Material: (six sets) 6 x Rs. 2000
=Rs. 12,000

Support fund for community school :(five schools) 5 x Rs.6000
=Rs. 30,000

Administration: **=Rs. 8,000**
Stationary (@ Rs. 200 per month) Rs. 200 x 12 =Rs. 1200
Community School periodical (annual) =Rs. 4000
Traveling for volunteer (@Rs. 250 per month)
(to visit communities for coordinate the school activities): =Rs. 3000

Grand Total : Rs. 248,100
(Two hundred forty eight thousand and one hundred rupees only)